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Concluding Paragraph Connection Decade Paper

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Point Of View

Thesis Statement

How They Styled In the Sixties

“Style is an expression of individualism mixed with charisma. Fashion is something that comes after style.” I am like almost every other girl; I love clothes and fashion. I like looking good when I go out in front of other people. I’m attracted to bright colors and interesting patterns, which is probably the reason I picked the sixties decade. They’re fashion was colorful, interesting, and different than any other decade so far. I noticed that the styles were constantly changing which made it all more interesting. My solo costume for this year is based on the sixties decade. It consists of a colorful sweatshirt, neon pink tights, and splatter painted shoes. I love everything about this decade and I can’t wait to tell you about it.

According to the American Decades (1996) in the early sixties, the Chanel suit and the full skirt were still popular for girls. By 1963, the long skirts had disappeared but the formal look was still intact. The look was adult and glamorous. The younger generation didn’t want to look different than the older generation. The men, however, took the Italian-look to heart. They started wearing narrow trousers, narrow lapels, and a thin tie. For men with extreme style, they had flares; lapels were wider; and the kipper tie became popular. Fashion was regional during this time. It took awhile for the styles to reach the whole company from their origin in the Capital. (Braggs, 2009)

Men also wore winklepickers. Winklepickers were sharp shoes with a pointed toe. In 1962, the more casual look approached. They wore sports jackets with ties and hats or open necked shirts. The hats were mainly worn by the older men though. For men thirty and over, the smart suit remained the only way to dress for going out. Women started to wear slim fitting trousers also. All of these styles lasted for a reasonable amount of time.

According to RetroWow, by the middle of the decade, little had changed in women’s fashion. The Chanel suit, left over from the fifties, was still very popular. Hemlines might have been raised higher then they use to be. The bouffant hairdo was started in the middle years of the sixties. The smart suit and fairly formal look remained popular, especially for women over thirty.

Some of the most popular hairstyles were from the sixties. The beehive was an Audrey Hepburn look. The pixie was a short hairstyle which was popular until the long hair came back in the hippy era. The flip was a classic sixties look that remained in for most of the decade.

Calf length boots and long leather jackets were creeping into popularity. Then there was the mini skirt. The mini skirt was the fashion phenomenon of the sixties. Hemlines rose seven to eight inches about the knee. There is much debate over who created the mini skirt. The store Chelsea was one of the first places that sold them in 1965. Andre Courreges also added mini skirts to his fashion collection in 1965. Women now wore tights and panty house with these new skirts. The bright colors and geometric patterns dominated this period.

The Mod style soon became popular too. The tapered trousers and thin lapels of the Italian-style became a new youth cult. They added striped blazers, Fred Perry shirts, and the Mod scooter to this look. Then finally the Hippy style took over for most people. The Mod look was replaced with long hair, beads, beards, and kaftans. “Flower power” was in the air at that time. The look was, as they called it, psychedelic swirls and paisley patterns. Many of the shops started selling such clothes like floral shirts, jackets with wide lapels, velvet and brocade flares, and skirts or dresses with velvet and lace. As the decade ended, hemlines began to drop. The maxi and midi lengths offered an alternative look to the mini skirt. The youth of the country, unable to join the beautiful people, opted for short cropped hair and Dr. Martens boots. The Skinhead was born.

I loved studying this decade. It was an original decade that no other decade could out due even if they wanted to. Everything I thought about this decade turned out to be true. I am satisfied with my findings and I don’t think I will research it anymore unless I want to try something different with my look. Fashion is important in any decade, but this decade stuck out beyond all the others.